

Director's Report  
April 2011

### **FY12 Budget Update**

On March 15, the County Executive sent his FY12 recommended Operating Budget to the County Council. If the Council approves this budget in late May, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) will be further reduced from a level of \$28.8 million in funding from FY11, to \$26 million for FY12. This represents a 9.8% reduction (\$2.8 million) from the FY11 Approved Budget. This recommended budget will result in further reductions in staffing levels and library services.

The County Council public hearings will begin on April 5, and the Library Department will have a work session in front of the Health and Human Services Committee on April 14. Further information from the County Executive's Office about the budget process, including how to leave comments about the budget, can be found at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/budget>. Further information about the County Council's budget process can be found at the County Council website, <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council> or call 240-777-7900.

### **Customer Satisfaction Survey, April 10-16**

To help determine the effectiveness of library services and programs, MCPL will conduct a [Customer Satisfaction Survey](#) in its 20 branches during National Library Week.

The survey, for customers 12 years of age and over, is an online questionnaire available through the library website, [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library). Customers can complete the survey from home, work or school or at any MCPL branch any day during National Library Week. In addition to English, the survey will be available in Spanish and Chinese.

I urge all of our library customers to complete the online survey. The results will help MCPL assess the overall effectiveness of library services and programs in our current fiscal environment.

### **“Tell Us Your Story” During National Library Week**

Help us celebrate National Library Week, April 10-16. The 2011 theme is “Create Your Own Story @ Your Library.” Today's libraries help people discover new and exciting worlds. Beginning April 10 through April 24, we invite you to share your story about how the library has impacted your life and the lives of family members and friends.

Watch for the “Tell Us Your Story” link on the library website. MCPL wants to hear how libraries have made a difference in your life!

## **Program Highlights**

Come and meet the author Randy Weston at a special afternoon book signing event at Rockville Memorial Library on Friday, April 8 at 1 p.m. Mr. Weston is an accomplished composer and pianist and the author of "African Rhythms: The Autobiography of Randy Weston." Willard Jenkins, the book's arranger, will also share his experiences in writing the book with Randy Weston that he describes as a "life-altering experience."

Join us on Saturday, May 21 at the Chevy Chase Library for an entertaining afternoon with romance writers Catherine Asaro, 2009 Nebula Award winner for 'The Spacetime Pool;' New York Times Best-Selling author, Rebecca York, aka Ruth Glick; and Diane Wylie, author of historical romance and adventure.

## **Just for Teens**

It's spring and time to prepare for the SAT and ACT. Workshops for high school students will be held in April at Bethesda, Rockville Memorial and Silver Spring libraries. Learn techniques on writing a great college application essay and hear about test strategies that will help you raise your SAT and ACT scores. All workshops are free and presented by Kaplan Test Prep.

A Teen Writers Club, especially for teens ages 13 and over, takes place at the Marilyn Praisner Library beginning April 6. The club will meet every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to learn writing techniques and share your work with others.

## **Announcing Summer Reading 2011**

Summer is just around the corner and so is Summer Reading @ MCPL. The theme for this year's program for children is "One World, Many Stories," and for teens, "You Are Here." Registration for the program is online through the library website. Customers will be able to sign up for the program and manage their reading logs online.

The official Kick-off event for children features Marcy Marxer and ChristyLez (pronounced Chris Styles) Bacon at Aspen Hill Library on Saturday, June 18 at 11 a.m.

Teen Summer Reading kicks off with Sarah Dessen, author of "Along for the Ride" at the Bethesda Library on Thursday, June 16 at 5 p.m.

Additional performers include Mad Science of Washington, storytellers Diane Macklin and Arianna Ross, Reptiles Alive, Mike Rose, the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, Maryland Zoo in Baltimore and a few other favorites. The program begins June 18 and runs through August 13. Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. and local Friends of the Library chapters.

B. Parker Hamilton

Library Director